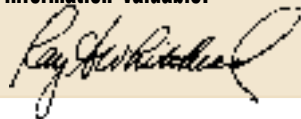


From the Editor

FOR almost 200 years West Point has been the source of some of the nation's — and the Army's — most outstanding leaders. This month, SSG John Valceanu showcases the U.S. Military Academy in "Forging the Long Gray Line," and the USMA Preparatory School in "Army Prep." Coverage begins on page 4 with an academy graduation photo-feature, "The Big Day," and continues to a special USMA pullout centerfold.

Heike Hasenauer gives us a close-up look at Tripler Army Medical Center's Human-Animal Bond Program, beginning on page 28, and gives us an inside look at the Army's role in emergency medical evacuation in "MEDEVAC, Hawaiian Style," starting on page 34. Helicopters are also featured in SFC Brenda Benner's story, "Army Aviators Go to Sea."

This quarter's *Hot Topics* insert focuses on "Countering Family Violence — Nourishing a Stronger Army Family." Starting its second year of publication, *Hot Topics* comes out with a fresh, new look — overhauled from cover to cover. We hope you find the appearance pleasing and the information valuable.



Waxing Nostalgic

WAXING a bit nostalgic about my Army days, I subscribed to **Soldiers** last December. I was very pleased with the January issue. It was chock full of goodies. But it was the February issue that really got my attention when I realized the cover and a story inside dealt with my old unit from Vietnam, the 7th Field Artillery.

Of course it was then known (1968, 1969 and 1970) simply as the 7th Artillery. I was even more gratified that the story was about Battery A, the very battery I served in. I salute you, your magazine, and the fine work done by Heike Hasenauer. Thanks. I look forward to enjoying more of your fine articles on the soldiers of today.

*MSG Walt Cross (Ret.)
via e-mail*

Pictured on Calendar

MY son's picture was featured on the calendar in your January 2000 edition of **The Soldiers Almanac**. I was wondering if there is any way that I could obtain a few copies.

*Kim Sincavage
Ocean Springs, Miss.*

Your copies are on the way.

May Comments

WHAT a wonderful story you did in the May issue on the Korean War. I must say this is the finest story, layout, photos and magazine that I have run across in the 50 years since the Korean War started. I am sure our 50th Anniversary Group is as ecstatic as I am about their layouts.

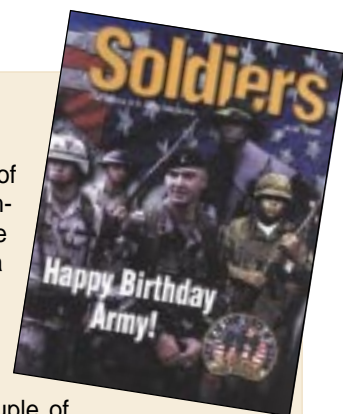
I just cannot find enough special words to pass on to you and the staff of **Soldiers**. Please pass on to all those responsible that even without my story you

Superlative Issue

AFTER receiving the June issue of **Soldiers**, I had to do what I promised myself I would do at some point — congratulate you on a superlative magazine. As a 28-year veteran and an Army brat before that, I've been associated with **Soldiers** (and the Army Digest) all my life. The last couple of years have produced outstanding issues of this vital magazine, for which you and your staff must be justifiably proud. The pullouts are extraordinary, the charts terrific, the histories invaluable, and ... well ... everything from **Soldiers'** photos to news briefs is just outstanding.

As the command information officer for the Berlin Command many years ago, I know the challenges of timely publications. I end my 28-year career in two days, so I have a lot to compare your magazine (and home pages) to. It has never been better. My Dad was a two-time Korean War vet, as well as WWII and Vietnam, and I thoroughly enjoyed the Korean War pullout. If he were alive, you can bet he'd have devoured it.

*LTC Brian W. McConnell, USAR
via e-mail*



made all of us veterans of the Korean War proud. If I knew the mailing address of heaven I surely would mail one to my brother and family. I just know they would feel as I do about the magazine.

One last request, if possible. I would like to give a copy to my living family members. If you can find a way to send six copies, I can show the family that our war, its veterans and my brother are remembered.

*Vincent Krepps
Towson, Md.*

YOUR extra copies have been mailed.

THE substance of SPC Christopher Dunphy's May article, "Final Honors," was very good. However, the pictures tell a different story. One member of the pall bearer/firing party detail is wearing sunglasses — during

the ceremony. This is completely inappropriate, prescribed by a doctor or not. Another point is all soldiers were wearing the Class A green uniform bloused with jump boots or combat boots. The only soldiers authorized to wear that combination are those assigned to airborne or air-assault units.

These pictures contradict the article. They demonstrate a pervasive attitude in many leaders' minds that if it looks good, do it; disregard the rules, never mind the attention to detail. These pictures insult the soldiers who work hard for the privilege to wear such distinctive items and show younger soldiers that breaking uniform regulations is okay. The NCO in charge should know better than to allow his soldiers to not conform to AR 670-1.

*SFC Frank C. Wood
Fort Lewis, Wash.*

THE photo in the May article "Final Honors" is very concerning. What regulation allows non-airborne qualified soldiers to tuck the Class A trousers into the boots while wearing no berets or airborne badges? This is disrespectful to the family of a deceased soldier plus a shame to airborne units for trying to create a "look."

*SGT David Martin
Fort Riley, Kan.*

CSM Aaron Henderson, the Fort Leavenworth command sergeant major, stopped the practice of funeral details wearing jump boots and blousing their trousers when he arrived there. He responded: "It is not the standard within this command to wear jump boots as a part of the funeral detail — if we still have soldiers doing so, I need to know immediately."

THE May issue had a picture on pages 16-17 captioned: "American troops engage a North Korean sniper during house-to-house fighting in early 1952." The same picture appeared on page 29, only the negative was reversed and the caption reads: "The 1st Cavalry Division attacks a train yard in the North Korean capital, P'yongyang, 19 October 1950." I am assuming this was a mistake, but I believe this article should have been more carefully reviewed before it was published.

*SFC Craig Williams
Fort Rucker, Ala.*

*THE flopped negative and incorrect caption on pages 16-17 were **Soldiers'** errors. As noted on page 27, those posters were published by the U.S. Army Center of Military History and can be ordered through the CMH website at www.army.mil/cmh-pg.*

Uniform Complaint

I AM absolutely appalled at the June centerfold representation of our Army soldiers in period uniforms. It defies logic that you would choose to portray a U.S. Army soldier wearing a United Nations beret and patch as it appears the soldier on the far left is wearing. This is OUR birthday, and it shouldn't be denigrated by reminding us of the movement afoot to subjugate us to the United Nations.

*MAJ Randy W. Readshaw
via e-mail*

The Forgotten War

SOME people still call the Korean War a forgotten war. It should not be. We lost American lives over there, for the word "freedom," and that is not free. I think it would be great if the American people were educated more on the military's role in their freedom. That way, the lives we have lost to secure that freedom, and any future lives lost, will not be forgotten!

*SPC Barry L. McCorkle
Fort Campbell, Ky.*

Farewell, SMA Hall

IT will be a sad day when the Army says goodbye to SMA Robert Hall. The June article by SGM Phil Prater was very informative and it was good to see that Hall was able to restore the integrity and trust associated with his position.

I was surprised, though, to see Prater allow Hall to be photographed without a seatbelt on. Could it be that the vehicle was at its destination and Hall was going to finish his call, then exit the vehicle? Any insight on this would be helpful in order to be able to stress the importance of seatbelts to my coworkers.

*David Ross
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.*

THE author advised that Hall was using the vehicle as a noise shield to make his call. The car was parked, not moving.

New Phone Number

YOU directed me to call (DSN) 327-7191 for Army National Guard unit vacancy information. When I call that number, I get an answering service for an-

other number and no operator is available. Can you help me?

*SFC George A. King
via e-mail*

THE number listed in our May issue was changed recently to (DSN) 327-3551 or (703) 607-3551.


Soldiers Pictures

HOW about putting those great pictures in **Soldiers** on the Internet for us to use?

*COL John C. Levasseur
via e-mail*

*THE **Soldiers Online** presence continues to evolve, with the June edition providing what you suggest: the entire issue is available in .pdf (Acrobat) format.*

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

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